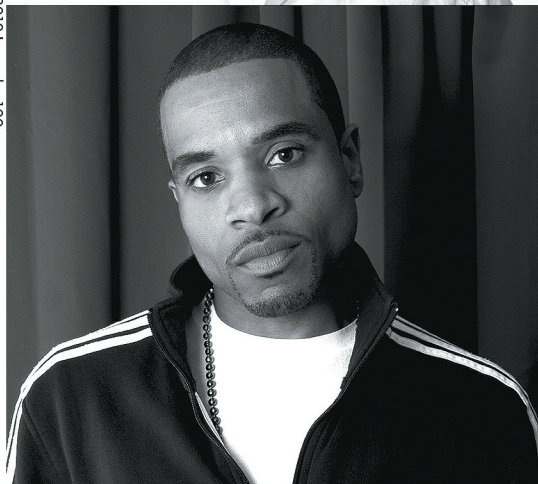


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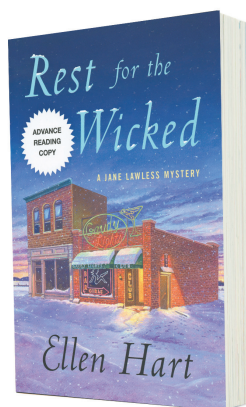


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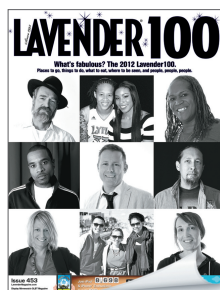
ONLINE

NOTE

Ms. Behavior is on hiatus but will return to Lavender within a few issues.

ON THE COVER

Nine of the FAB Community Members of the 2012 Lavender 100. Upper (L-R): Patrick Scully, Seimone Augustus and LaTaya Varner, Andrea Jenkins. Middle (L-R): Kevin Kaoz Moore, Jordan Roberge, Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune). Lower (L-R): Jessalyn Frank, Shades of Yellow leadership (Kham Moua, Oskar Ly, Nhia Vang), Katie Burgess. Photos by Sophia Hantzes, Mike Hnida, and Hubert Bonnet.



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Lavender Love

I'M IN love with this issue. Look at it. The people, the places, the pictures, the people, the people, the people. But, I have terrible timing. Just as we wrapped up the voting for the Lavender 100 and scheduled photo sessions with the Community Members, I went on vacation. Big mistake on my part as I missed seeing—and meeting—some of these wonderful people in our pages.

I love people. As the editor, my priorities are clear: the Editorial Calendar reigns supreme, then the columns, then the stories that we find as we live our lives. Most of the people fall into the third wave of coverage—our lives. This time, though, when my Editorial Calendar gives me the FAB 50, I made some choices. I decided to give us more categories, more winners, more people...100 of them, to be exactish. More lives, more conversations, more people.

But, what I missed while I was gone were the conversations. No, I don't personally do our interviews on a regular basis, but I do personally talk to people. That's my favorite part of this job. And Kathleen told me exactly what I missed while I was gone.

Hope. She told me that of all the people she met, the most common theme was the hope they had that the community can look past

its differences and become more unified. What? In a year when "Minnesotans United" has taken such a prominent role as an organization and as a theme? Yes.

We need to own that. Unity.

This is a community that has been tied together by rather disparate similarities. The requirements for membership are more conceptual than actual, being based on sexual orientation and gender identity (and more...or less, depending on who you talk to). What we face on a day-to-day basis is different from person to person. And, getting to know each other is how we begin to understand how we're actually similar from person to person. Circumstances may not be the same, but struggles and triumphs can be. So, in this issue, these people are just the tip of the iceberg for who we can look to as role models in seeing not only how we are all so different, but also how we can find pride in our unity.

We want that, right?

With hope and thanks,

Andy ■




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The Days Grow Short...

I'VE BEEN stressing how important it is to keep talking right down to the wire about the importance of NO votes on the same-sex marriage and voter ID amendments in November.

I've urged readers to talk with friends, co-workers, the uncertain and undecided of all stripes; to engage in conversation and reasoned debate. The other day, however, I came upon another potential problem for GLBT allies intending to cast their vote for equal rights for same-sex marriage.

While a NO on the voter ID amendment is clear-cut, it seems that the wording makes some people think they'd be helping their gay friends by voting YES—that such a YES would mean, “Yes, I think our GLBT friends should have the same rights that I enjoy,” not the “Yes, I'm voting against the rights of gays to marry.” We must be careful not to lose NO votes through a simple misunderstanding.

Therefore, in the remaining days before the November elections, remember, as you talk and debate and explain, make it clear that NO is the vote to NOT write discrimination into the Minnesota state constitution. Use whatever other mnemonic device you might dream up to make the message stick, and finally, remind your friend/co-

worker/relative that if they are standing in the voting booth and can't remember, to leave that box blank, because an unchecked box will count as a NO vote.

On another topic: Romney's cheap, inaccurate shots at the Administration following the horrific murders in Benghazi, Libya, leave me speechless. Fortunately, his words and actions themselves speak eloquently for likely shoot-from-the-hip presidential reactions.

Finally, on a lighter note, should you need a fresh, ad-hominem argument for those proclaiming gay marriage will ruin not only their own union but the very sanctity of marriage itself, ask them how young Levi Johnston's (dad of Bristol Palin's son Tripp) actions jibe with “family values.” Johnston and girlfriend Sunny recently announced the arrival of Tripp's new half-sister, Beretta—named after an Italian pistol.

While at 500+ years, that Italian firm is the world's oldest arms manufacturer, what happened to “Made in the USA?” For the next half-sibs, I urge a more patriotic American monicker—“Charter,” “Calico,” or “Colt.”

My own cheap shot, you say? Yes, yes—it must be catching.... ▣



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Kathleen Watson

Best Birthday Bash: Bingo A-GoGo Turns Ten



Photo by Todd Pernsteiner

WHAT STARTED out as a small 500 person gathering in a tiny church basement has now turned into the best bingo event in town! Bingo A-GoGo will be celebrating ten years of Bingo at Birthday Party Bingo on October 20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Shannon Regan, known as one of the "Bingo Babes" says Bingo A-GoGo started because "we wanted to bring people together in a nice setting where people can have fun and know they're helping organizations." The event keeps growing, with over 1,000 people expected on October 20, and Regan notes that a larger space may be needed in the future. Regan says, "Who would have thought we'd be around for ten years? We certainly didn't." But they're still here, bigger and better than ever.

Hosted by Miss Richfield 1981 and including the talents of several other hilarious entertainers, this bingo event can't be missed! The ticket sales benefit Park House, a structured mental health and day program serving the HIV/AIDS community, and Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Attendees are encouraged to "dress as their favorite party theme."

Tickets are available for \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. For more information, go to www.bingoagogo.com.

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www.mnunited.org

This fundraiser for Minnesotans United For All Families benefits from curator Mike Welton, a veteran of arts activism. His splendid visual sense was felt in his work for *GAZE* magazine in the 1990s, and let's not forget his bold performance art and other stage work that railed against homophobic censorship in that same decade. Two decades later he's swingin' out again with a visual art show you cannot miss. It includes his own work along with that by Chris Nystrom, Pamela Weisdorf, and Leslie Pilgrim.

Welton shares, "I felt a strong desire to help with the fight to defeat the Marriage Amendment. The whole idea of voting on a minority's human rights and culture just seemed too much to not do anything. Having been in the Twin Cities artist community for over 13 years, I thought the least I could do to help the fight against this insane amendment proposal would be to do it through my art as well as art from those of the community. Most artists, I think, do not limit their world view or their view of themselves...[they are] allowing themselves to think of marriage as an ever changing and all encompassing institution. This strange and ugly amendment is actually bringing our artistic communities together for a common cause."



But Not For Love. Photo by Mark Lasuro

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Oct. 16-21
Orpheum Theatre,
910 Hennepin Ave, Mpls.
(800) 859-7469
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

It was the first Disney animated hit to be turned into a Broadway stage musical and a gigantic smash hit in its own right. It was also controversial at the time for various reasons. Some thought it a rip-off of a film success, others a shameless ploy to get butts in Broadway seats and make Manhattan's seedy 42nd Street area more family-friendly. Nonetheless, *Beauty and the Beast* holds its own as one of the most inventive Broadway musicals of the '90s, and I submit that it is also a movingly powerful comment on the notion that powerful desire ultimately is triggered by something deep within rather than only the surface. Word has it that the current national tour is terrific, so go see it if you've never seen it.

BILLY ELLIOT

Oct. 9-14
Ordway Center,
345 Washington St., St. Paul
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

Christopher Howard plays the older version of the title character in the national tour of the Elton John musical smash. Howard shares, "I find the whole show is about power struggles. The time period is based around the mining strike in England

in the early to mid 1980s. The whole community at large is in a struggle. The Coal Miners' union is fighting against the government. And I think, too, it's Billy's struggles. He's growing up, and he stumbles upon this ballet class and finds he has a knack for it. He really enjoys it and says, 'I think I wanna do this.' And so he has a struggle between him and his community, specifically his father and his brother. They're afraid of something different. They expect Billy to grow up and be a miner, live in the town the rest of his life, get married, have kids. Do the normal thing that everybody in this town would do. And he wants to change that. He wants to grow up and be a ballet dancer. He has to step up to that family and say, 'It's just what I want to do.'"

BUT NOT FOR LOVE

Oct. 12-28
The Warren - An Artist Habitat,
4400 Osseo Rd, Osseo
www.workhousetheatre.org

Imagine a double wedding officiated by a woman, consisting of two couples—one gay, one straight. Add to that a policeman tasked to keep a volatile right wing protestor from disrupting the ceremony. Originally commissioned and produced by Pennsylvania's Allegheny College in '06 and revived last year in Los Angeles, Minnesota playwright Matthew Everett is happy to see it staged in the Twin Cities. He says, "politics, religion, and family all collide in a story like this. Given the current political climate in Minnesota, we thought it was vital to not only help put a human face on the issue of same-sex marriage, but also inject some much needed laughter and the possibility of a happy ending. This is the right time for this play to find its way to a Minnesota stage."

Director Richard Jackson adds, "Matthew's script manages to present a point of view without straying into polemics or propaganda. It's not preachy, though he presents his arguments. It's intensely human and universally recognizable. Weddings have so much inherent potential for drama that the specifics of this piece don't feel manufactured." ➡

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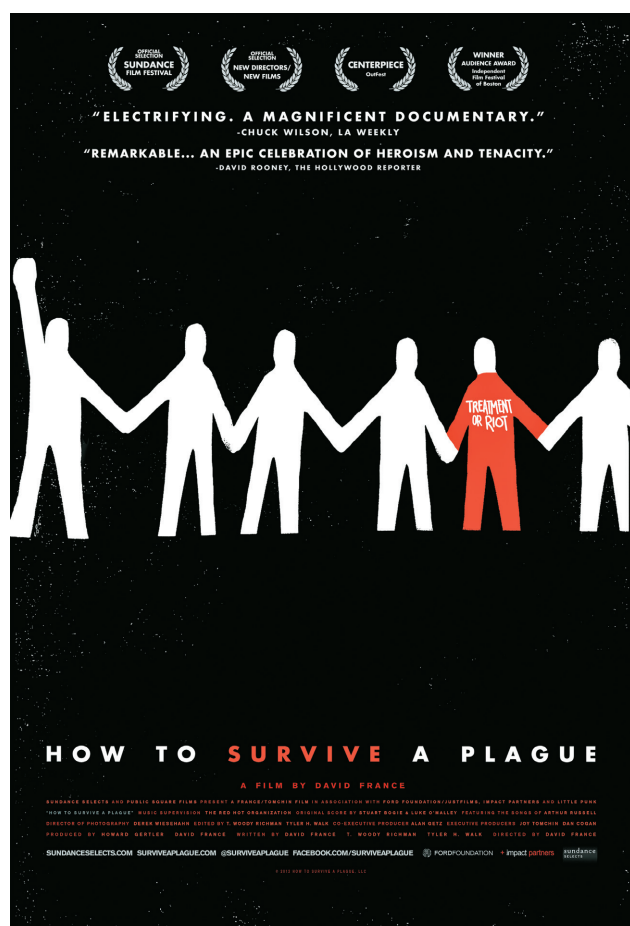


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How To Survive A Plague. Photo courtesy of How To Survive A Plague

HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE
now screening
Lagoon Cinema,
1320 Lagoon Av., Mpls.
(612) 825-6006
www.landmarktheatres.com

David France's documentary captures the zeitgeist of the early years of the AIDS epidemic unlike any film you've ever seen. (And it is referred to in the film as an epidemic, not a pandemic.) Starting from the 1987 inception of ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), France chronicles events of that time with details that sear into the institutionalized homophobia around the disease and the panicked hysteria within New York's gay men's community. There were incentives in the nation's most liberal city's hospitals to not treat AIDS patients. There were even security policies that had sufferers thrown out of emergency rooms. Corpses of some who died were put in hospital trash bags!

Various activists are interviewed, and raw footage of their organizing and expression caught on film gives us a front row seat to how they brazenly and beautifully shifted the course of sexual discrimination, public health policy, and medical history. Controversial disruptions caught on film at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the global AIDS conference, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are rivetingly recounted. Internal tensions between activists who ultimately made inroads into the medical power structure to the chagrin of AIDS patients and their advocates who felt left behind are frankly put forward as well.

For those who think that ACT-UP was unfair to the Reagan/

Bush years, France will not give you any ammo, I'm afraid. The film is worth seeing just for its stark sense of how Republican attitudes toward funding and bureaucracy blended with homophobia actually endangered public health. And for those who think that the Democrats have always been warm and fuzzy about gays and AIDS—just wait till you see Mayor Ed Koch in confrontation with activists like Bob

counter the mean and often hateful voices that are behind the so-called marriage amendment that's really about denying people, GLBT people, the right to legally tie the knot. We both thought an eclectic mix of songs. We both thought a big cast. We both thought nontraditional narrative. We were excited, and we are excited now."

Robins adds that he, Carlson, and Illusion Theater Producing



Love & Marriage. Photo by Lauren B. Photography

Rafsky and CNN's token liberal Tom Braden's obnoxious attitude toward Peter Staley.


If I were global dictator, I would insist that everyone have to watch it along with another gay doc masterpiece, 2010's *Stonewall Uprising*, in order to understand just what the modern GLBT movement of today comes out of (no pun intended).

LOVE & MARRIAGE
Oct. 11 - 28
Cowles Center,
528 Hennepin Av., Mpls.
(612) 339-4944
www.illusiontheater.org

This past spring, composer/arranger Roberta Carlson and director Michael Robins had a moment of mutual intuition about creating a music theater piece about marriage equality. They left phone messages almost simultaneously saying "let's talk" about the possibility. Robins recalls, "We met, and, lo and behold, we had the same idea: using music and people's stories to

Director Bonnie Morris wanted to "celebrate the mystery and joy of love and and the inexplicable and mystical reasons people find their mate and decide to spend their lives together." The cast of eight includes Cat Brindisi, Adar Bryan, Reid Harmsen, Rachel Hurst, Charles Johnson, Randy Schmeling, Dennis Spears, and Tony-nominee Melissa Hart. There will also be taped interviews featuring Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Ryback and wife, Megan O'Hara, Bradley Greenwald and John Novak, Scott Mayer and John Zeches, Katie Guentzel and John Catron, Betsy Husting and Joyce Malestrom, Lisa Goodman and Ben Horn, as well as others.

Robins concludes "we chose this form because we wanted to celebrate love and because we can't legislate love and who you should or shouldn't love." Expect to hear familiar tunes ranging from Rodgers and Hammerstein to Jason Mraz. □



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Jacob Frey has been named one of the top 100 influential advocates for the GLBT community. No surprise, knowing Jacob. And no surprise that he's from Halunen.

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--J.S.

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--J.S.

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3. **LUSH**

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--J.S.

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www.wilderoastcafe.com

--J.S.

2. **Psycho Suzi's Motor Lounge**

3. **Loring Kitchen & Bar**



Photo by Mike Hnida



Photo courtesy of Wilde Roast Café

FAB BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH

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--J.S.

2. **Key's Café**

3. **Uptown Diner**



MATT'S BAR

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

FAB BURGER

1. Matt's Bar

They are not kidding about that cheese (surface-of-the-sun hot), but moreover, Matt's Bar serves a killer burger seared on a wonderfully seasoned grill. www.mattsbar.com

--J.S.

2. Blue Door Pub

3. 5-8 Club

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1. W.A. Frost & Co

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--J.S.

2. La Belle Vie

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BIRCHWOOD CAFÉ

Photo by Mike Hnida



PSYCHO SUZI'S

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

FAB RESTAURANT FOR PEOPLE WATCHING

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www.uptowncafeteria.com

--J.S.

2. Wilde Roast Café

3. Uptown Diner

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www.psychosuzis.com

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2. W.A. Frost & Co

3. Stella's Fish Café

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--J.S.

2. Common Roots Café

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FAB SEAFOOD

1. The Oceanaire Seafood Room

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www.theoceanaire.com

--J.S.

2. Stella's Fish Café

3. Anchor Fish & Chips

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1. Fuji Ya

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2. Masu Sushi & Robata

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2. Fogo de Chão

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FAB ASIAN RESTAURANT

1. Tea House

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www.ourteahouse.com

--J.S.

2. Masu Sushi & Robata

3. Little Szechuan



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

FAB DELI

1. Cecil's Deli

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--J.S.

2. Be'wiched


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--J.S.

2. Moscow on the Hill

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FAB CHEAP EATS

1. Chipotle

If you leave Chipotle hungry, you're doin' it wrong. www.chipotle.com

--J.S.

2. Matt's Bar

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Photo by Mike Hnida

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Photo by Hubert Bonnet

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--J.S.

2. Kieran's Irish Pub

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--J.S.

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--J.S.

2. Grand Ol' Creamery

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--K.W.

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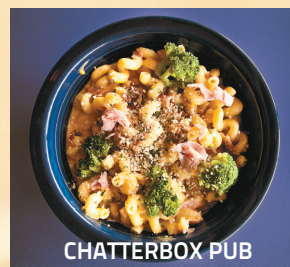
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--J.S.

2. French Meadow

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CHATTERBOX PUB

Photo by Mike Hnida

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FOOD ON A STICK



FAB CANDY STORE

1. Candyland

The very words Chicago Mix® make you salivate and bring to mind the wealth of home-made fudge, popcorn, and candy varieties these wonderful stores have waiting for your appetites. www.candylandstore.com. --E.B.

- 2. St. Croix Chocolate Company
- 3. Sugar Sugar

FAB STATE FAIR FOOD ON A STICK

1. Pronto Pup

Sixty-five years at the Fair and going strong. "Give them food and let them keep walking" was the aim, and a battered pup on a stick brought it home. www.prontopup.net. --E.B.

- 2. Corn Dog
- 3. Pork Chop on a Stick



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

Photo courtesy of iStockphoto.com

FAB STATE FAIR FOOD NOT ON A STICK

1. Cheese Curds

Ellsworth Wisconsin's Cooperative Creamery supplied 115,000 pounds of this deep-fried fodder for the famished at 2012's Great Minnesota Get-Together. Unique at the Fair in their sticklessness, they're a must-eat-treat. www.ellsworthcheesecurds.com. --E.B.

- 2. Sweet Martha's Cookies
- 3. Roasted Corn on a Cob

FAB CRAFT COCKTAIL

1. La Belle Vie

Johnny Michaels wrote the book on craft cocktails, and his work his still best showcased behind the only bar you'll ever spot him at—La Belle Vie. Each drink served here is balanced, boozy perfection. www.labellevie.us. --J.S.

- 2. Butcher & the Boar
- 3. Eat Street Social

FAB LOCAL BREW

1. Surly

Their limited beer releases are like a Christie's auction gone haywire. Few brews could inspire such devotion, but Surly pumps out keg after can of the best craft beer in town. www.surlybrewing.com. --J.S.

- 2. Grain Belt
- 3. Fulton



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For more information, visit
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www.surdyks.com

--J.S.

2. Haskell's

3. Chicago-Lake Liquor

FAB FARMERS MARKET

1. St. Paul Farmers' Market

Keeping it local long before that was a buzzword, St. Paul Farmers' Market is full of some of the best food artisans and farmers in the Midwest. www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com
--J.S.

2. Minneapolis (N. Lyndale)

3. Mill City Farmers' Market

FAB GROCERY STORE

1. Trader Joe's

Minnesota is one of nine lucky states served by Trader Joe's. Not big box, TJ's carries just some 4,000 items—food, wine, beer—many on their own brands at significant discounts.
www.traderjoes.com

--E.B.

2. Kowalski's

3. Lunds

FAB MOVIE THEATER

1. Showplace ICON

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www.showplaceicon.com

--E.B.

2. Riverview Theater

3. Landmark Lagoon

FAB PERFORMANCE THEATRE

1. Hennepin Theatre Trust/Guthrie Theater (tied)

The independent, non-profit organization owns the State, Orpheum, Pantages, and New Century Theatres, keeping the Cities filled with shows from Broadway's best to intimate comedy. Half a million flock yearly.
www.hennepintheatretrust.org

This major resident theater opened in 1963, bringing drama to the area not only on its stages but through camps, classes, continuing legal education, internship programs, and school partnerships.
www.guthrietheater.org

--E.B.

2. Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

3. Children's Theatre Company/Jungle Theater (tied)

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MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART



FAB ART GALLERY/ MUSEUM

1. Minneapolis Institute of Art

Rembrandt in America and China's Terracotta Warriors—two examples of the MIA's megawatt featured exhibitions and inspired presentations. The Institute reaches out to young and old, making art come alive. www.artsmia.com. --E.B.

- 2. Walker Art Center
- 3. Science Museum of Minnesota

FAB MUSIC VENUE

1. First Avenue

"Your Downtown Danceteria Since 1970" is that curved black building at First Avenue and 7th. Originally the art deco Greyhound Depot, First Avenue remains a sleek and

sassy destination. www.first-avenue.com. --E.B.

- 2. Dakota Jazz Club & Restaurant
- 3. Hennepin Theatre Trust

FAB COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY

1. University of Minnesota

With an enrollment of over 50,000, UMN is the fourth largest public university in America, offering both undergrad education and a wealth of respected graduate and professional schools. Go Gophers! www.umn.edu. --E.B.

- 2. Metropolitan Community & Technical College
- 3. University of St. Thomas/Macalester College (tied)

FAB PRO SPORTS TEAM

1. Minnesota Lynx

WNBA Champions keep fans on the edges of their seats through another slamdunk season. Players and coaches make over 200 appearances for the Lynx Foundation to support breast cancer research. www.wnba.com. --E.B.

- 2. Minnesota Twins
- 3. Minnesota Rollergirls

FAB PLACE TO TAKE VISITORS

1. Stone Arch Bridge/St. Anthony Main

From its construction in 1883, the bridge's 23 arches have spanned the Mississippi, their native granite and limestone etched in beauty by the everchanging light to delight generations. www.stonearchbridge.com. --E.B.

- 2. Minnehaha Falls
- 3. Minneapolis Sculpture Garden

Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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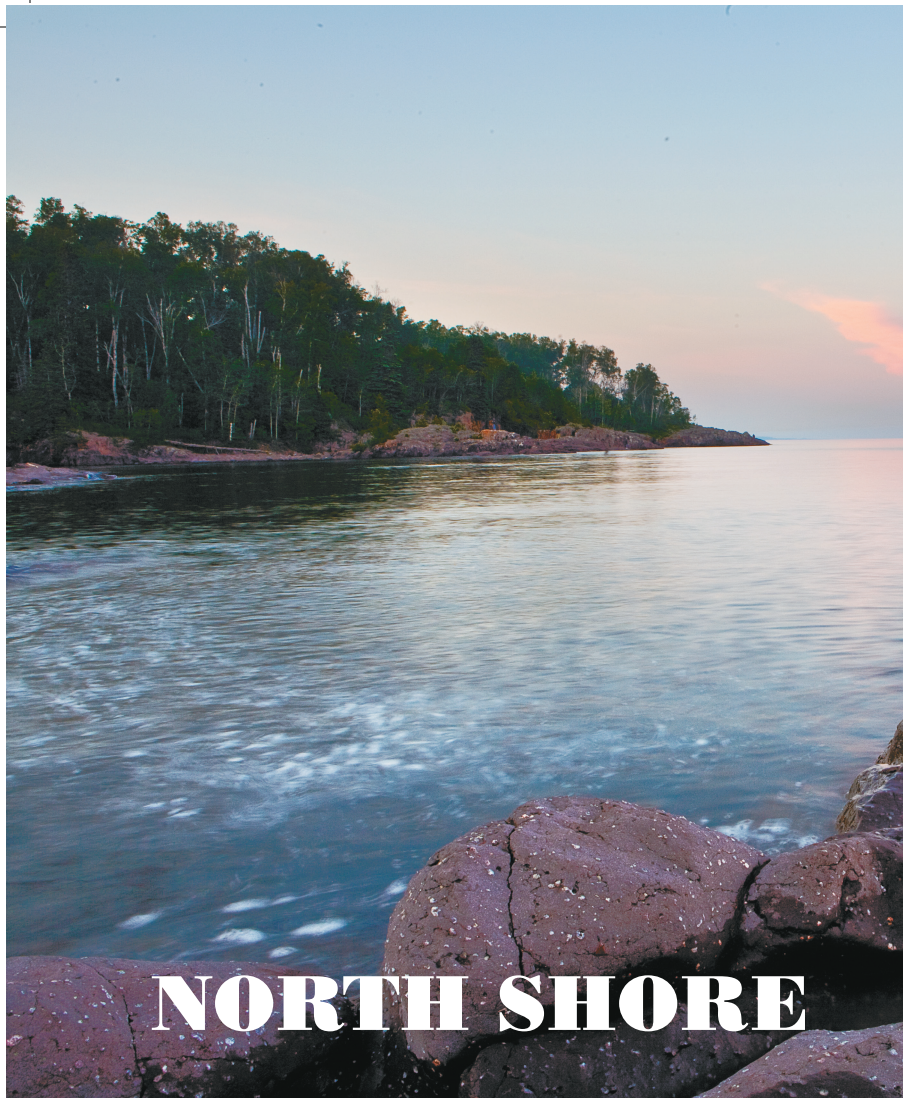
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FAB WEEKEND GETAWAY

1. North Shore/Duluth

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2. Chicago

3. Stillwater

FAB ORGANIZATION

1. Minnesotans United for All Families

What a concept: everyone should have equal civil rights, the same rights to lead their lives in peace. MN United has made herculean efforts towards that goal and NO in November. www.mnunited.org. --E.B.

2. Animal Humane Society

3. Second Harvest Heartland

Photo Hubert Bonnet

FAB FUNDRAISER

1. Dining Out for Life - The Aliveness Project

Exceeding its goal of \$190,000, The Aliveness Project raised a whopping \$214,229.11 in this year's dining fundraising event to assist AIDS service organizations. Remember to "Dine Out, Fight AIDS." www.aliveness.org/dining-out-life. --E.B.

2. House Parties for Minnesotans United for All Families

3. Minnesota AIDS Walk

FAB SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

1. Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League

Celebrating 34 years in the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Open Division. Fun fundraising for worthy causes, providing a safe environment for GLBT softball players of all ages. www.leaguelineup.com. --E.B.

2. North Country Bears

3. Minnesota Mayhem Rugby

FAB VINTAGE CLOTHING

1. Ragstock

Offering new and recycled clothing, Ragstock is your go-to place for quirky vintage finds. Stock up on Zombie Pub Crawl supplies, 90s track jackets, and trendy-yet-ugly Christmas sweaters. www.ragstock.com. --K.W.

2. ARC Value Village

3. Everyday People



TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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FAB TATTOO PARLOR

1. Saint Sabrina's

Receiving countless awards for their hip atmosphere and talented artists, there really is no competition. If you're getting something permanent, make sure it's done well by going to Saint Sabrina's.

www.saintsabrinass.com

--K.W.

2. Uptown Tattoo

3. Ink Lab

FAB MEN'S CLOTHING

1. Heimie's Haberdashery

If you're looking for a classy and custom fit, you can't go wrong with a clothier that offers fabric and style recommendations. Pamper yourself by visiting the barbershop while you're there. www.heimies.com

--K.W.

2. Macy's/Nordstrom (tied)

3. Len Druskin

FAB WOMEN'S CLOTHING

1. Anthropologie

With the latest urban-chic-meets-boho fashion, Anthropologie offers unique statement pieces for every woman's closet. As if clothing weren't enough, their knick-knacks and furnishings are too cute to pass up. www.anthropologie.com

--K.W.

2. Nordstrom Rack

3. Kohl's

FAB SALON/BARBER SHOP

1. Barbers on Bryant

Yet again, Barbers on Bryant win—and for good reason. Brian and Audie will give you the best haircut in town at this “new-fashioned barbershop,” and it's still only \$15. www.barbersonbryant.com

--K.W.

2. Juut

3. Aveda

FAB FITNESS

1. Lifetime Fitness

With multiple exercise programs and pristine facilities, there's really no reason to avoid exercise. Drop in to any of the numerous metro locations see what the hype is all about. www.lifetimefitness.com

--K.W.

2. L.A. Fitness

3. YWCA



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SMITTEN KITTEN

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

FAB FLORAL AND GARDEN

1. Tangletown Gardens

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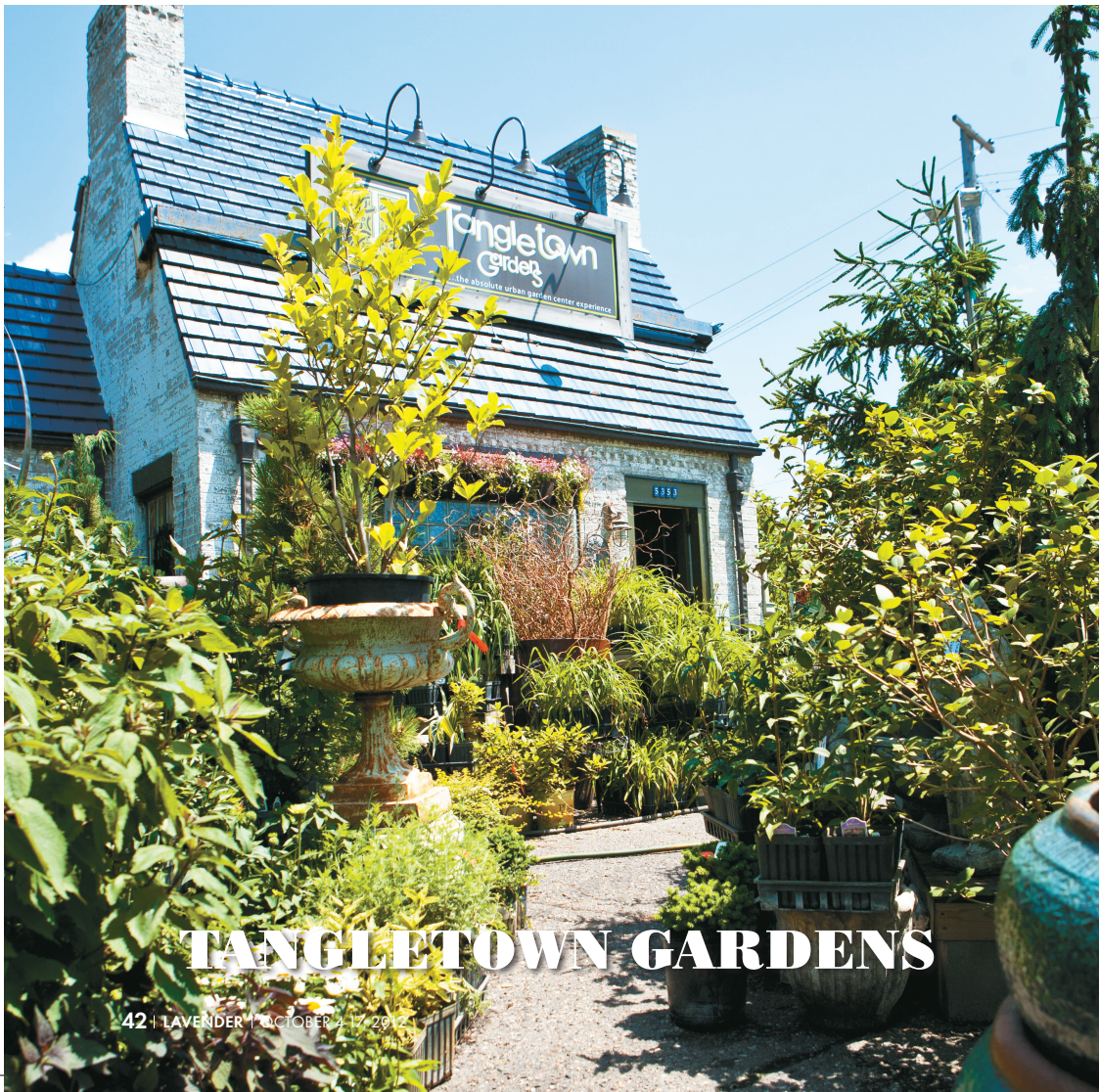
www.tangletowngardens.com

--K.W.

2. Bachman's

3. Linder's

Photo by Hubert Bonnet



TANGLETOWN GARDENS

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FAB BIKE SHOP

1. Erik's Bike Shop

Voted #1 Bike Shop in the USA in 2008, Erik's has only grown, much to the delight of bikers and boarders everywhere. Erik's is the one-stop shop for everything wheeled.

www.eriksbikeshop.com

--K.W.

2. Angry Catfish Bicycles and Coffee Bar

3. Penn Cycle

FAB HOME FURNISHINGS

1. IKEA

Find everything you need for your home (and more) at IKEA. With several mock-rooms, you'll find design tips for any space. (And you might even have fun doing it!)

www.ikea.com

--K.W.

2. Room & Board

3. Crate & Barrel

FAB GIFTS

1. Patina

Stocking the most adorable, unique, and hilarious gifts, Patina has something for everyone for any occasion. Decorate your home or add the perfect accessory to a blah outfit from Patina.

www.patinastores.com

--K.W.

2. The Bibelot Shop

3. Ampersand

FAB ADULT GIFTS

1. Smitten Kitten

Who says sex shops can't be classy? Smitten Kitten goes above and beyond by offering the finest products, the most knowledgeable employees, vegan products, ethical porn, and educational classes. Hot.

www.smittenkittenonline.com

--K.W.

2. Sex World

3. Fantasy Gifts

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--K.W.

2. Cat

FAB PLACE TO MEET DATES

1. eagleBOLTbar

Offering multiple areas to mingle, the eagleBOLTbar is the best place in town to meet dates. Everyone's friendly, and the place is always full of hotties. Go get 'em, tiger! www.eagleboltbar.com

--K.W.

2. Wilde Roast Café

3. GRINDR

FAB POLITICIAN

1. Al Franken

Where do we even begin with Al Franken? He's such an advocate for our community in the US Senate. The standing ovation he received at the HRC Gala says it all.

www.alfranken.com

--K.W.

2. Keith Ellison

3. Amy Klobuchar



AL FRANKEN

Photo by Sophia Hantzes

FAB EMPLOYER

1. Target

Target understands the meaning of corporate responsibility. Offering wellness programs, volunteer programs for employees, and creating a safe and diverse workplace, Target is the best place to earn a paycheck.

www.target.com

--K.W.

2. General Mills

3. Wells Fargo

FAB RADIO STATION

1. 89.3 The Current

Combining new indie music and old classics that inspire the new jams, 89.3 The Current is music to our ears. Local music also abounds, so there's always something fresh.

www.minnesota.publicradio.org

--K.W.

2. myTalk 107.1

3. KFAI 90.3/106.7



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FAB RADIO PERSONALITY

1. Bradley Traynor

Ah, Bradley Traynor—near and dear to our little *Lavender* hearts. It's no surprise to us that he's the favorite radio personality. He's now holding court with Colleen on myTalk 107. www.mytalk1071.com/shows/colleenbradley

--K.W.

2. Jason Matheson

3. Mark Wheat

FAB LOCAL NEWS STATION

1. KARE 11

When you're looking for the latest news, look to a source you can trust. Honoring volunteers through the Eleven Who Care program, KARE 11 is here for the metro community. www.kare11.com

--K.W.

2. WCCO

3. FOX9



Photo courtesy of Trampled By Turtles

FAB LOCAL NEWS PERSONALITY

1. Sven Sundgaard

Hearing a cloudy forecast isn't so bad when you have the cheerful Sven Sundgaard giving you the details. With his involvement with Dining Out For Life, what's not to love?

www.kare11.com

--K.W.

2. Jason Matheson

3. Belinda Jensen

FAB LOCAL MUSICIAN

1. Prince

The Prince still reigns! We've loved him since his start, and that's never going to change. Nothing will cheer you up more than gyrating to Prince's sexy, funky sounds.

--K.W.

2. Kevin Kaoz Moore

3. Harley Wood

FAB LOCAL BAND

1. Trampled By Turtles

Hailing from Duluth, MN, Trampled by Turtles is quickly becoming a national sensation, and bluegrass never sounded this good. People are already saying, "I knew them before they were famous..."

www.trampledbyturtles.com

--K.W.

2. Doomtree

3. Cloud Cult



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FAB ACTOR

1. **Ryan Gosling**
2. Channing Tatum
3. Robert Downey, Jr./Neil Patrick Harris (tie)



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FAB ACTRESS

1. **Meryl Streep**
2. Sandra Bullock
3. Kristen Wiig

FAB TV SITCOM

1. **Modern Family**
2. Big Bang Theory
3. Glee

FAB TV DRAMA

1. **True Blood**
2. Dexter
3. Mad Men

FAB REALITY SHOW

1. **Big Brother**
2. Top Chef
3. Project Runway

FAB MOVIE OF 2012

1. **The Dark Knight Rises**
2. The Hunger Games
3. The Avengers



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LORING PARK



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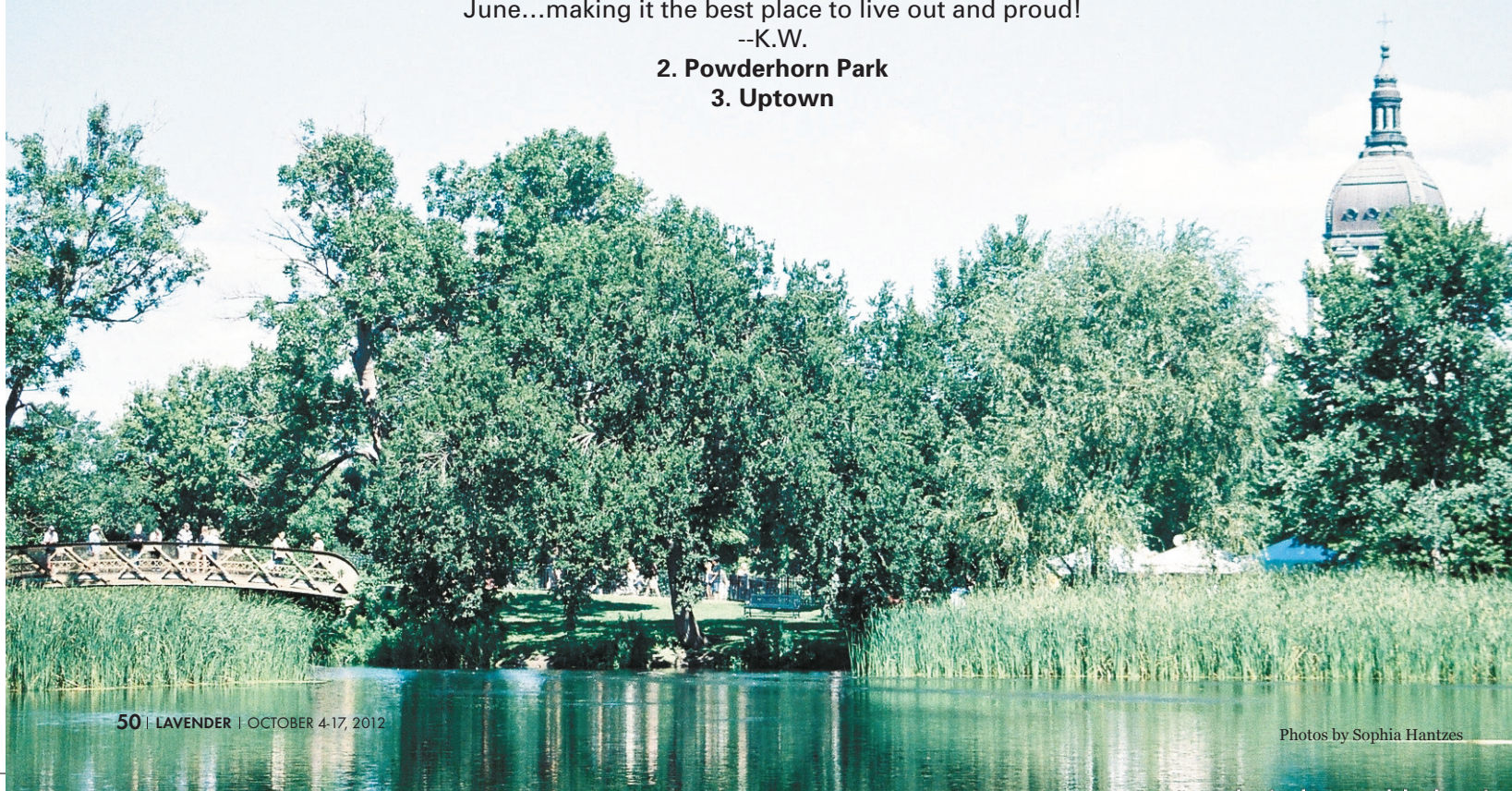
1. Loring Park

Welcome to the gayborhood! Loring Park is home to the 19 Bar, Loring Kitchen and Bar, and (of course) TC Pride Fest in June...making it the best place to live out and proud!

--K.W.

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(L-R) Monica, Joe, and Tim.

PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

JOE LARSON, TIM MARBURGER, & MONICA TRAVIS

THE HELPING HANDS

It's no secret that The Aliveness Project provides some of the most needed support for our community. With thousands of volunteers being ambassadors for Dining Out for Life, making holiday gift baskets, and volunteering on a daily basis, there are countless people that help provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS. But Joe Larson (Executive Director), Tim Marburger (Director of Fundraising), and Monica Travis (Director of Volunteer Services) deserve a special nod for their contributions. Driven by their personal experiences and partners or friends who have died of AIDS, this team works tirelessly to make living with HIV/AIDS not just about surviving—but about thriving as well. Larson is inspired by “the people we serve. I love seeing the positive impact we have for our community.”

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

ROXANNE ANDERSON

THE ORGANIZER

As the co-owner of Café SouthSide at The Exchange (a queer community space) and of RARE Productions, Roxanne Anderson has become a leader and a gatherer for the queer community. With regard to having a strong leadership role in the trans community, Anderson says, “I take people where they’re at, and I think folks in transition don’t usually get that. They’re often put into boxes.” Anderson and Rochelle James started RARE Productions to support queer artists of color and organized the first dance nights for queer people of color. Anderson says Café SouthSide “gives an opportunity for transfolks to mix with the Gs and the Ls and the Bs, which is something that we don’t really see in our community. This coffee shop and The Exchange is making that happen.”

--K.W.



PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES

SEIMONE AUGUSTUS AND LATAYA VARNER

THE FIANCEES

This favorite Twin Cities couple will tie the knot at the Walker Art Center in May. Now very open about their five-year relationship (which began five years ago at the Gay 90's), the two were particularly visible during Pride 2012, where Augustus was Co-Grand Marshal. Augustus is part of the 2011 World Champion Minnesota Lynx basketball team and has also competed in the Olympics. Along with traveling, practicing, and managing a very full calendar, Seimone and Tay are planning their May wedding to celebrate their commitment to each other. But what inspires our community most is their positivity and devotion, making them incredible role models for all.

--K.W.

ANGUKSUAR (RICHARD LAFORTUNE)

THE ACTIVIST

Beginning as an anti-war and anti-nuke activist, Anguksuar (Richard LaFortune) now works to improve the rights and representation of Native GLBT people. Anguksuar identifies as Two Spirit, which he says "is a term that describes who we are and differentiates our cultural characteristics of gender which differ from Western societies. It also distinguishes us as indigenous people." Currently, Anguksuar is working on home foreclosure projects and using his organization Two Spirit Press Room to address "the issues of suicide and homicide and violence toward Native Two Spirit people, which are coming to national and international light as significant." Anguksuar also was elected to the Governor's Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Minnesotans, and has worked with the Jean Tretter Collection to archive the history of GLBT Indigenous people.

--K.W.

PHOTO BY HUBERT BONNET



CLAIRE AVITABILE

THE DIRECTOR

When founding 20% Theatre Company, Avitabile wanted to “create a space that would support queer, transgender, and gender non-conforming artists in theatre.” Practicing tolerance and honest communication, Avitabile leads 20% to perform plays that challenge conventional, binary systems of gender and sexuality. With regard to her work, Avitabile states, “We tell the untold stories. We provide the opportunities that no one else will.” Avitabile hopes the GLBT community will come together: “There is way too much internalized homophobia and transphobia in our own GLBT community, and it needs to stop. Our community is marginalized enough as it is...there is no one way to be gay or queer or transgender. We should support one another’s freedom to self-define our sexuality, gender identity, and expression.”

--K.W.

PHOTO BY REBECCA JEAN LAWRENCE PHOTOGRAPHY



MARY BREWSTER

THE QUEEN

Beginning her performances 17 years ago with Triangle of Hope, an organization that “makes it easier for the community to give back,” drag queen Mary Brewster uses her talents to raise money for projects like Clare Housing and more. Mary Brewster also co-hosts the Sparkle Show at The Town House, which includes a “benefit number” as the final song, with all tips from that song going to a GLBT charity or organization. Mary Brewster feels she gives back to the community through her work: “We all need to take a step back and see how truly blessed we are, and that’s why I like to be able to do something. I’ve lost friends to HIV and AIDS, and that’s been my inspiration.”

--K.W.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY BREWSTER



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JESSALYN FRANK

THE VOICE

As the State Director for Communication Service for the Deaf (CDS) and founder of Minnesota's Deaf GLBT Pride, Jessalyn Frank works tirelessly to increase the visibility of the Deaf community, especially the GLBT Deaf community. Making GLBT services like HIV prevention, support groups, and information services accessible to people who are Deaf, Frank hopes to eliminate the stigma surrounding the Deaf community, and she hopes that all GLBT people will unite and interact. Frank says, "Being a strong, Deaf role model who is out and authentic in the community is one way I can bring good to the LGBT community. I use my position to be a voice and bring attention to our community." Frank received the 2012 Twin Cities Pride Everyday Hero Award for her work.

--K.W.

KATIE BURGESS

THE ADVOCATE

As the Executive Director of the Trans Youth Support Network (TYSN), Katie Burgess works with an incredible staff of people to provide support for trans youth in the area.

Burgess recalls, "Growing up, I ran from being trans for a very long time. It was a lot of isolation that just about did me in."

Along with providing necessary support services for trans youth, Burgess is working to make hormones more accessible through the Community Hormone Access Project (CHAP), and she also works with TYSN to make housing more accessible and positive, especially for homeless trans youth.

Through TYSN, Burgess has created a respectful, safe, and authentic environment that has helped countless individuals—including herself. "It's about finding my own liberation through my work and helping my community."

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

JACOB FREY

THE ALLY

Growing up with parents who were professional modern ballet dancers, Jacob Frey witnessed many loving same-sex relationships in his childhood. Seeing this love inspired him to become active against the marriage amendment by organizing The Big Gay Race, a 5K that donates all the proceeds to Minnesotans United for All Families. Frey anticipates that the race will be more like a parade, with thousands of people participating. As one of the community's strongest allies, he states, "I don't think you should have to be someone who's directly affected to really notice the fact that there's a certain group that's getting screwed over." An attorney by day at Halunen & Associates, Frey recently received the first annual Martin Luther King Community Award from the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights.

--K.W.

DEREK HARLEY

THE MISTER

As Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2012, Derek Harley is using his title to spread awareness of HIV stigma to the community through a national program called Mr. Friendly. Harley notes that he always wanted to help the community but didn't know how to start. Winning Mr. Minneapolis Eagle 2012 helped him gain confidence, which allowed him to follow his internal drive to help out. Harley discovered Mr. Friendly a couple of years ago, and he knew he could "count on the support of the community to support the program in the cities." Harley believes that the conversation about HIV stigma is "a conversation we really need to have, and I want to make the community a better place. By living out loud and proud, you stand up and you provide hope."

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

ANDREA JENKINS

THE POET

"Art is a powerful tool for creating change and providing people with context and information for ways that they can see their own lives in other people's struggles," according to poet and activist Andrea Jenkins. As a transgender woman of color, Jenkins hopes to use her work to promote equality and justice. She is currently developing a play and a leadership development program for transgender youth of color. Jenkins's work is highly acclaimed, winning her the 2011 Bush Leadership Fellowship, 2011 Many Voices Fellowship, 2011 Rockwood Leadership Institute Fellow, 2009 PFund Power of One Award, and more. Jenkins notes that we are in a "unique place in history for transgender rights and equality. I would like to see transgender Americans be afforded the same equality as all Americans."

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA



PHOTO COURTESY OF JJ KAHLE

JJ KAHLE

THE TEACHER

As a 2012 White House Champion of Change, JJ Kahle spends every day making her school a safe place for GLBT students and allies. Kahle teaches Spanish at The Blake School in Minneapolis, leads the school's Gay Straight Alliance, and works in Blake's Office of Equity and Community Engagement (focusing on GLBT Support and Advocacy). Students see Kahle as a supportive adviser who truly wants them to succeed and feel comfortable with who they are. Every day, Kahle makes a lasting impression on our future GLBT community leaders and advocates.

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

(L-R) Alavie Lyons, Richard Carlbom, Judy Thoreson, Bryan Gerber.

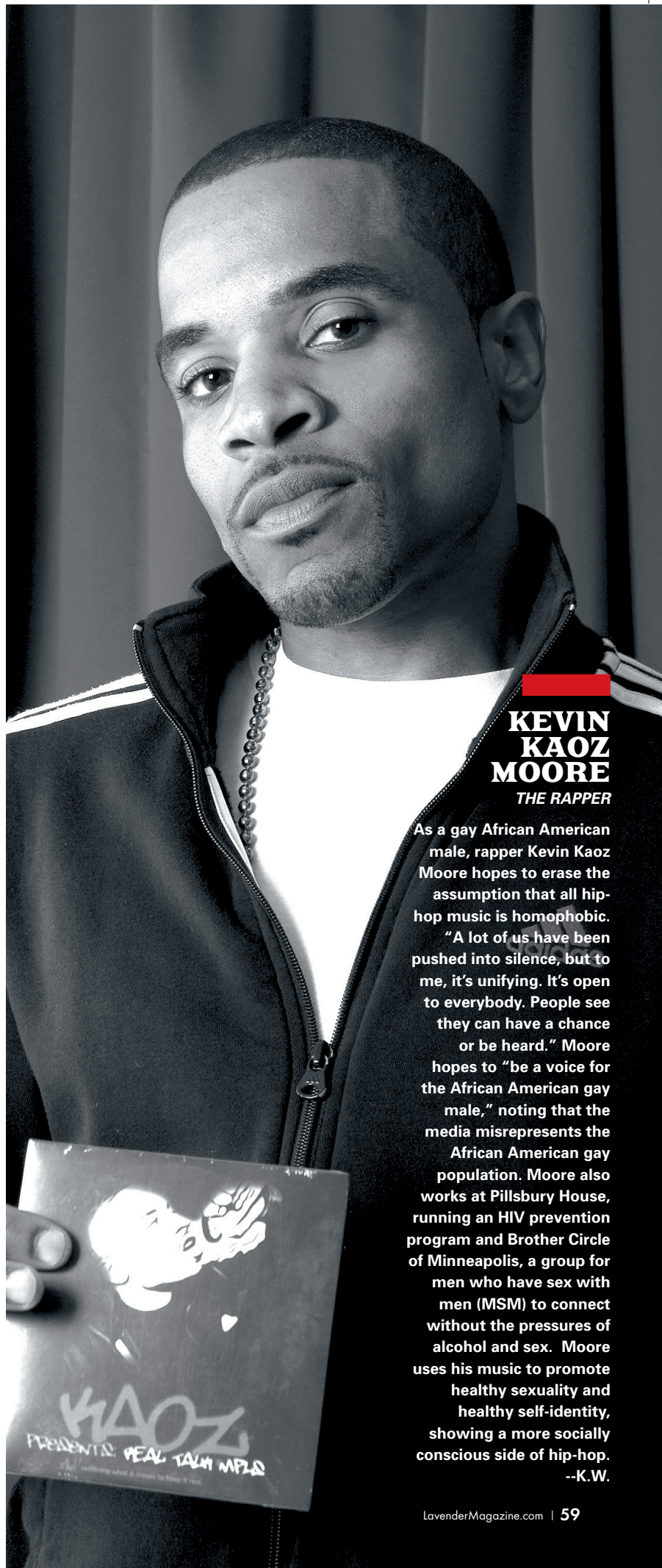
MINNESOTANS UNITED FOR ALL FAMILIES

THE FRONT LINE

The "Vote NO" campaign is easily one of the most visible campaigns this year in Minnesota, all thanks to thousands of volunteers working with Minnesotans United for All Families. Through fundraising events, privately hosted parties, public outreach, and a new television ad campaign, MN United hopes to get everyone to Vote NO in November. Along with raising money and awareness, campaign manager Richard Carlbom says, "We get people who've been married 45 or more years to stop and think about why they got married in the first place, and appreciate that they do have the freedom to marry...giving them the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of marriage." MN United is dedicated to strengthening and supporting ALL marriages for ALL people.

--K.W.

PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA



KEVIN KAOZ MOORE

THE RAPPER

As a gay African American male, rapper Kevin Kaoz Moore hopes to erase the assumption that all hip-hop music is homophobic.

"A lot of us have been pushed into silence, but to me, it's unifying. It's open to everybody. People see they can have a chance or be heard." Moore hopes to "be a voice for the African American gay male," noting that the media misrepresents the African American gay population. Moore also works at Pillsbury House, running an HIV prevention program and Brother Circle of Minneapolis, a group for men who have sex with men (MSM) to connect without the pressures of alcohol and sex. Moore uses his music to promote healthy sexuality and healthy self-identity, showing a more socially conscious side of hip-hop.

--K.W.

SHANNON REGAN

THE BINGO BABE

Also known as one of the “Bingo Babes,” Shannon Regan has helped coordinate Bingo A-GoGo for many of the last ten years. Regan supports Bingo A-GoGo because “people can come and have fun and know they’re helping good organizations.”

Regan also works as a coordinator at Park House, which offers mental health and day health programs for the HIV/AIDS community. Regan truly enjoys all the hard work she does, saying, “I think I’m one of the only people who enjoys going to work in the morning.”

As a strong ally to the GLBT community, Regan always puts others before herself: “It’s about helping one another in dire circumstances.”

--K.W.



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

RICK PERRY & ERIC BLAD

THE BEARS

What started out as a couple of friends scheduling weekly movie nights turned into Minneapolis Movie Bears, an active and growing organization run by partners Rick and Eric. But the Movie Bears don’t just go to the movies...and the group isn’t just for bears. All people are welcome to join, and the group hosts many activities, such as pre-movie dinners, Oscar parties, volunteering, and other social outings. The Movie Bears have also raised over \$75,000 for the MN AIDS Walk. Eric says the camaraderie of the people is the best part, with “many people meeting their partners and friends there. It’s a way to meet new people from the community.” Through Minneapolis Movie Bears, the couple provides a social atmosphere for people to communicate and relax.

--K.W.

MISS RICHFIELD 1981

THE MATRIARCH

She’s been holding court for over 30 years, and for good reason. Though it’s easy to focus on her hilarious and over-the-top performance career—and her absolutely fabulous fashion sense—Miss Richfield 1981 shows that she truly does care for her “darling prairie dogs.” Through her work with Bingo A-GoGo, the Stand Up Foundation, and many other nonprofits, Miss Richfield 1981 always goes the extra mile for our community. Using her talents to make a difference, Miss Richfield 1981 travels around the country making everyone in her path double over with laughter. All hail the Queen of Queerdom!

--K.W.



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This is a 21+ event.



Details and reservations at mnzoo.org



PHOTO BY MIKE HNIDA

JORDAN ROBERGE

THE VOLUNTEER

A volunteer extraordinaire, Jordan Roberge offers his time to several nonprofits in the area including Twin Cities Pride, the University of St Thomas Multiculturalism Board, and the Twin Cities HRC Planning Committee. Roberge believes, "Being involved in a nonprofit, volunteering in the community...whatever you can do—you can make a noticeable and sustainable difference." His work in the corporate world with regard to diversity and inclusion inspired and educated his volunteer work and makes him hopeful for the unification of the GLBT community. Roberge hopes to create a more inclusive environment for GLBT minority groups and believes "You have to do more than just welcome people in. You have to do the outreach."

--K.W.

BARBARA SATIN

THE FAITH LEADER

As a 78-year-old transgender woman, Barbara Satin has an active transgender presence in the faith and aging communities. Satin works in the Faith Works office of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, helped form GLBT Generations at Spirit of the Lakes Church and assisted in shaping the United Church of Christ's decision to accept transgender people. She notes, "I found a new, exciting side of that relationship [with God] when I came out as a trans woman...Up to that point in my life, I thought that my being transgender had cut me off from my God...Instead, I experienced a renewed energy and excitement toward my faith." Satin worships at Spirit of the Lakes Church and is currently working to develop an independent living facility for GLBT seniors on 13th and Lake.

--K.W.



PHOTO BY SOPHIA HANTZES

A full-page portrait of Patrick Scully, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a black fedora, a white button-down shirt, and black leather pants. He is standing with his hands on his hips, looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

PATRICK SCULLY

THE CREATOR

For over 30 years, Patrick Scully has been performing with the goal of “reflecting our lives as queer people to ourselves.” His work is mostly autobiographical, and he is now creating a one-man show about Walt Whitman in order to “take the reality of a true American queer ancestor and put it on stage.” He also created a space, Patrick’s Cabaret, for other artists to do the same. “Social change starts with artists. It’s our job and our gift to dream the future.” Scully uses his art to explore and celebrate queerness, which he believes should always be an important part of our identity. He states, “My hope is that as we move toward full equality in our country, we don’t erase our specialness in order to assimilate.”

--K.W.

PHOTO BY HUBERT BONNET

PHOTO BY SOPHIA HANTZES



(L-R) Kham Moua, Oskar Ly, and Nhia Vang

SHADES OF YELLOW (SOY)

THE UNSUNG HEROES

As a nonprofit that addresses the issues of the Hmong GLBT community, Shades of Yellow is one of the most active GLBT organizations in the area. Board Chair Kham Moua notes that SOY provides a space for Hmong GLBT people to congregate in a space that isn't "one or the other" (GLBT-friendly or Hmong-friendly), as well as providing support for the specific needs of their community, letting people be "comfortable in our own skin." SOY creates visibility of GLBT people in Hmong communities, and Moua says, "we begin a piece of the dialogue that's completely missing in our history and in our community. We create visibility and understanding...while trying to maintain safety." SOY hosts the SOY New Year, a small leadership retreat, and assists with the QSEA Census Report.

--K.W.



PHOTO BY HUBERT BONNET



(L-R) Lady L, Sally Nixon, Ann Freeman

PHOTO BY SOPHIA HANTZES

SOUL FRIDAY

THE SOUL SISTERS

Creating what organizer Sally Nixon calls a "space for queer people of color from all cultural groups to get together," Soul Friday allows the community to connect in a safe place. Soul Friday, held on the first Friday of each month at Hell's Kitchen, is the premier night for all GLBT women of color and their friends. Ann Freeman, one of the founders, states that "there have been several nights for queer women of color, and this builds on that tradition." The night features DJs Shannon Blowtorch and Lady L who says this event lets people "enjoy a dope conversation...without all the riff-raff." Though she's "retired" from other events, Lady L continues to spin for her sisters at Soul Friday. "It's become a family thing for me."

--K.W.

JOHN SULLIVAN

THE WHITE COLLAR WARRIOR

Recently retired, John Sullivan still has a full time job: encouraging the professional community to stand up in support of GLBT rights. "When I first came out, the inequalities were pretty extreme...at that time, being out in the professional community was not something anybody did." He decided to play his part by getting involved with the Human Rights Campaign Business Council, and they issued their first Corporate Equality Index under his lead. Sullivan is inspired by the great progress made in the corporate community, but hopes there comes a day where we can "stop having defensive battles." Sullivan now works with MN United, particularly with lawyers and corporate partners in the coalition, and he believes, "what's happened in the corporate world in the past ten years has been pretty amazing."

--K.W.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON MATHESON

BRADLEY TRAYNOR & JASON MATHESON

THE ENTERTAINERS

Two of the most popular men in local entertainment and news just happen to belong to our community: Bradley Traynor and Jason Matheson. Matheson, a news anchor at FOX 9 and radio host at myTalk 107.1, also supports DISTRICT 202, which helps GLBT youth. After making a name for himself through *Lavender's* Big Gay News and Wanda Wisdom programs, Bradley Traynor's new talk show on myTalk is making him even more of a family name. Traynor notes that as a gay man, "I know there's a perspective that the mainstream media doesn't realize all the time, and I know my position offers me a unique perspective that not everybody may have as a result of being part of the GLBT community."

--K.W.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRADLEY TRAYNOR



JOHN TOWNSEND

THE SCRIBE

As *Lavender's* most loved Arts and Entertainment writer, and as a highly acclaimed local theater critic, John Townsend's intelligent, unique voice fills a large void in our community. Beginning to write for queer press 21 years ago in order to adequately present the queer perspective in mainstream press, Townsend voices his nuanced and thoughtful perspectives on local theater. Townsend says, "I believe deeply that a thoughtful interest in the arts evolves individuals all around toward a deeper comprehension of their resplendent humanity. Art helps us process/integrate dark subject matter, and in contrast opens our chakras so that we might more fully experience love, empathy, and joy. That makes for mental and emotional flexibility and clearer, truer communication."

--K.W.

PHOTO BY HUBERT BONNET

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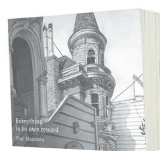


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**REST FOR THE WICKED****Ellen Hart****Minotaur Books \$25.99**

DeAndre Moore, dying behind Minneapolis strip club Gaudy Lights, sends last words on a voicemail to Jane Lawless, newly-minted P.I. and acclaimed Minneapolis restaurateur. Moore, it happens, was the nephew of Jane's partner, A.J. Nolan, currently hors de combat in hospital. Hart's twentieth Jane Lawless mystery is replete with the rowdy cast of familiar characters—irrepressible Cordelia Thorn, precocious niece, Hattie—as well as Hart's signature twists and turns of the ingeniously wicked. Beneath the characters and intricate plotting lies Hart's ongoing concern with family; one's inherited blood kin, one's chosen kindred, and kin heretofore unknown that rise to haunt one. Family ties of all kinds interweave to cover and protect, to throttle and destroy. Settle into another compelling read from mystery master Hart.

**EVERYTHING IS ITS OWN REWARD: AN ALL OVER COFFEE COLLECTION****Paul Madonna****City Lights Publishers \$27.95**

Madonna is well known for his ink and wash portraits of cities (San Francisco, Paris Rome, Buenos Aires, Tokyo) and accompanying comments that turn his magical images into unpeopled graphic novels. *Everything is its Own Reward* is the second collection of Madonna's work; the first, *All Over Coffee*, is named for his two weekly strips seen in the San Francisco *Chronicle* and on SFGate.com. His work is also seen in "Small Potatoes" on TheRumpus.net. Madonna notes, "I wanted to get down to the most fundamental elements of storytelling possible." He has succeeded. His depiction of secret nooks, tiled roofs, alleys, factories, and open vistas celebrate San Francisco in a way that open natives' eyes and make the outlander homesick for a place he's never seen.

**THE PATERNITY TEST****Michael Lowenthal****Terrace Books \$26.95**

Having a baby to unite a couple: this tactic has been used for ages—with varied outcomes—for thousands of heterosexual couples. Pat Faunce, *Paternity's* WASP narrator, has been pushing to create a child, yearning to be a father and to cement his relationship with Stu Nadler, his partner of ten years. They decide on surrogacy, and find—right down the road—the lovely Brazilian Debora. She's perfect: Jewish, married to Danny (a carpenter), who accedes to her desire to "do what she was meant for." But as Lowenthal begins to explore the motives and strained loyalties of the four, the promised warm and fuzzy idyll turns into a dark, cautionary tale. What does being a family entail? How do each of the four respond?

**TACTICAL PURSUIT****Lynette Mae****Regal Crest Enterprises****\$18.95**

Ten years post-Beirut, hounded out of the military by a homophobic superior, Devon James and friend Mac McKinley have settled in Tampa, Florida, as a police corporal and SWAT officer respectively. The book explodes with a lethal shooting by Devon, then takes off on a breathtaking ride in this sequel to *Faithful Service*, *Silent Hearts*. The tactical pursuits describe not only taking down bad guys—one the berserker hell-bent-for-revenge son of their earlier army nemesis—but include the intricacies of new loves and romances undertaken by the pair. Mae deftly balances the romance with mayhem; Devon's struggle to overcome her own fears and nightmares to win her new love, Jessica, seeking to find peace and acceptance with a painful romantic wound from her past.

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**1-USA****Jesse Jackson Urges Maryland Voters To Support Gay Marriage**

The *Huffington Post* reports that the Rev. Jesse Jackson is urging Maryland voters to vote in favor of a ballot measure this fall that would give marriage equality to gays and lesbians in the state. Jackson stated: "I would hope that people would respect people's basic fundamental rights. If you don't believe in it, don't engage in it. But don't deny other people their basic civil rights." Jackson also said that he would perform a same-sex wedding ceremony if a gay or lesbian couple asked him to do so.

Oklahoma**Transgender Name Changes Not OK With Bible-Quoting Oklahoma Judge**

The *Advocate* reports that an Oklahoma judge has stirred controversy with decisions to not allow transgender people to change their names legally, claiming they are making the changes for "fraudulent" purposes, in violation of state law. Oklahoma County district judge Bill Graves, a former state legislator, wrote, "A so-called sex-change surgery can make one appear to be the opposite sex, but in fact they are nothing more than an imitation of the opposite sex." A person's DNA stays the same, he wrote, citing a physician he consulted. Graves continues: "To grant a name change in this case would be to assist that which is fraudulent."

Minnesota**Marriage Amendment Opponents Launch First Ad**

The *Star Tribune* reports that the lead group opposing the marriage amendment released its first television ad of the campaign season Tuesday, taking direct aim at the Catholic Church's strong support of the measure. Minnesotans United for All Families's ad features John and Kim Canny, lifelong Republicans and Catholics, encouraging Minnesotans to vote no on the proposed amendment that would cement a ban on same-sex marriage into the state constitution. When a gay couple moved into their neighborhood with their adopted son, the Cannys said they realized that same-sex couples want to marry to make a lifetime commitment based on love and responsibility—the same reasons they married.

Florida**UF Police Investigate Gay Slur Etched Into Law Professor's Car**

The *Gainesville Sun* reports that a University of Florida law professor's car was

vandalized with a gay slur this week in an incident that is being investigated as a hate crime. The slur was etched Monday morning into paint of the professor's car in a law school parking lot. UF President Bernie Machen issued a statement Wednesday saying that the conduct was illegal and unacceptable at the university or anywhere else. Major Brad Barber, UF police department spokesman, said the hate crime designation would bump up a misdemeanor criminal mischief charge to a third-degree felony.

CA**Berkeley Ready To Proclaim Bisexual Pride**

ABC News 10 reports that Berkeley may become the nation's first city to officially proclaim Bisexual Pride Day. If approved by the City Council on Tuesday, Bisexual Pride Day would be celebrated on Sept. 23 when there are bisexual pride events in Los Angeles, Boston, and other cities. Councilman Kriss Worthington proposed officially recognizing Bisexual Pride Day, saying bisexuals have complained for years that they are shunned by the gay community because they are considered fence-sitters.

Minnesota**Young, Old Divide Over Minnesota's Marriage Amendment**

The *Star Tribune* reports that the two campaigns locked in Minnesota's intensifying marriage amendment fight are wrestling with a glaring dividing line more stubborn than Democrat and Republican: young versus old. From California to Maine, an overriding thread that stitched together residents across the country is that younger voters tend to oppose the amendments and older voters generally support them. Elizabeth Minneman, 19, former chairwoman of the Minnesota Teenage Republicans, and other young people say future generations eventually will look at same-sex marriage opposition the same way most Americans look back at interracial marriage. And they don't want to be on the wrong side of history.

2-KINGDOM**Rupert Everett Blasts Gay Parents**

ABC News reports that though Rupert Everett blazed a trail for homosexual actors when he came out decades ago, he's now saying that gay men don't make good parents. The actor best known for *Shakespeare and Love* and *My Best Friend's Wedding* told Britain's Sunday Times Magazine that his mother has met his boyfriend but "still wishes I had a wife and kids." "She thinks children need a father and a mother and I agree with her. I can't think of anything worse than being brought up by two gay dads." "Some people might not agree with that. Fine! That's just my opinion," he said, adding that he doesn't consider himself part of the "gay community."

3-AUSTRALIA**Australian Lawmakers Uphold Ban On Gay Marriage**

Edge On the Net reports that Australian lawmakers overwhelmingly rejected a bill Wednesday that would have legalized gay marriage, and similar legislation looked unlikely to pass despite public support for same-sex marriage. Polls show that most Australians support gay marriage, but the Liberal Party-led conservative opposition coalition and many in the ruling center-left Labor Party are against it. Senior government minister Anthony Albanese told reporters after the vote: "I think at some future time our Parliament will catch up with community opinion, just as it has on other issues. When marriage equality occurs, people will wonder what the fuss was about."

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SIOBHAN BREWER, Youth Organizing Director of Minnesotans United for All Families

SIOBHAN BREWER is a national youth organizer and educator. A San Francisco Bay Area native, Siobhan has organized on campuses in Boston, in Ohio with Obama for America, Minnesota with OutFront, and nationally with Campus Camp Wellstone. As a queer woman of color, she is focused on building the leaders of tomorrow to advance social justice causes and the GLBT movement.

Lavender Magazine: How has the campaign structured its youth outreach and organizing?

Siobhan Brewer: Minnesota has long been known for having some of the finest higher education institutions in the nation that attract top-notch students. As a campaign, we have been focused on building relationships with campus leaders who are now helping us to activate well-organized, large-scale campus outreach efforts. Over the summer and spring, our organizers built these relationships with students. With classes having begun, we are now reaching out campus wide to train student leaders and organize campuses across the state.

LM: There is no doubt that young people across the nation are supportive of the freedom to marry. How will youth play a role in the campaign's strategy to defeat the marriage amendment?

SB: Youth in Minnesota follow the national trend of being very supportive of the freedom to marry. This allows the campaign to focus our efforts on getting youth to volunteer, build leadership skills, and



organize on and off campus. We are capitalizing on this energy by having college students go through our LYFK Training (Let Your Friends kNOw). This program teaches young people how to speak with their friends, family members, and others about the importance of voting NO. The LYFK training is especially helpful in having the more difficult persuasive conversations with unsupportive or undecided voters. The most effective way of moving people on this issue will happen between those who have close relationships.

LM: Most people are predicting the vote on the marriage amendment will be a close one. How could youth organizing tip the scale to defeat the amendment?

SB: We know there are a lot of Minnesotans who are undecided on this issue and many more that are just starting to think about the election. Youth in this state have the

chance to be make meaningful connections with these undecided voters. Furthermore, we will be reaching out to campuses across the state to motivate and energize all Minnesota students to Vote NO and to get involved in this massive and historic grassroots campaign. This campaign from the start has been focused on organizing the whole state and that continues with our youth outreach. We will not only be present in the Twin Cities, but we will have organizers and canvassers working on campuses all over greater Minnesota.

LM: As an established youth organizer how do you see this campaign playing into the larger narrative of organizing on the GLBT front?

SB: Prior to this amendment being put on the ballot and long after November, there will still be a lot of work to be done for freedom, rights and equality in the LGBT community. Great organizations like OutFront, Take Action Minnesota, and Wellstone Action, are focused on building capacity for the long run. The great part about campaigns is that they train new leaders, bring important issues to the surface, and engage a whole new group of people. In addition, this campaign has expanded our community of Allies and support, and it is allowing us to build community power in an unprecedented way. I am excited by the work our community can do after November 6th, not only around the issue of marriage, but on ALL important LGBT issues including those issues that intersect our identities across the State. □



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The Secret—issues of trust and change

THREE YEARS after hearing about this movie, I am still having to respond to people about it and my disagreements with it. Even from people I love.

One more person, a very loving person, suggested to me what a wonderful book/movie *The Secret* is. She said it helped her change her life and inspired her to let go of the past and believe she had power to change her life. I laud her for that.

I saw that movie several years ago, in fact, with several lesbians. I did not like the movie at all, and here is why.

I come from a political change background. That background understands several things. One, many of the problems of the world are caused by SYSTEMIC oppression—groups of people hurt through the institutions of a larger society, controlled by groups of people who benefit from them. On a personal level, we are treated badly by members of those “oppressor groups,” made to feel less human, often. This takes a lot of emotional power away and is very difficult to fight.

Does deciding we have power beyond what we have been told matter? Yes! Does changing it as an individual help? Yes, it does. But as feminism suggests, the personal is political. So the goal is still changing society for the larger group, not us struggling alone as individuals.

Where *The Secret* takes off is that there is some mystical source of information throughout various religious cultures. That’s the secret, and that anyone who finally gets the picture—who can change that about themselves—will succeed wildly and make lots of money. That everybody has that ability to change their thinking and their lives. However, they make it sound pretty darn easy. Is it? And if we can’t, are we somehow inferior? Not deserving of our lives changing?

The people who succeed in this movie are mostly people who have so much internal power that they are able to break through their histories and the difficulties of their present lives. That’s great. Most are purported to be making lots of money, to be wealthy, which seems to be a goal. There is a sense, however, that if you can’t do this, you ARE inherently inferior. It’s your fault.

So it’s all about the individual. Some people suggest we all have to be superhuman to change our lives. That’s a tall order! I can’t do that! I have no cape or wings! For me, it’s about trusting other people, which I am somewhat desperately learning. But that gives me hope, and the willingness to go after my own change and for others.

And the individual wealth thing, well, I wish for ALL of us a more equal distribution of money, and that all of us succeed and have all the good food, clean water, clothing, decent housing, music, art and poetry, and amenities. But having tons of money and things will never be the answer. Friendship and trust is probably more “the secret” than anything else. But it is not as easy as it sounds. May we all believe in our goodness, our significance, in our ability to trust one another, and not do any of this alone. □



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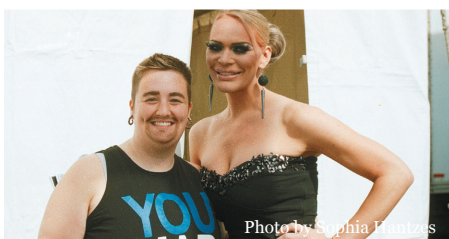


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Portrait of a Young Soldier CORPORAL WILFAHRT REMEMBERED



"American Hero" by Anthony R. Whelihan

KNOWN FOR his celebrity portraits, artist Anthony R. Whelihan turned to a local hero for his most recent subject: Corporal Andrew Charles Wilfahrt. Partnering with CommonBond Communities and OutFront Minnesota, Whelihan hosted a private release party of "American Hero," a tribute portrait of Andrew Wilfahrt, on September 13.

Corporal Andrew Charles Wilfahrt, an openly gay soldier, was killed in action outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan on February 27, 2011. Andrew is thought to be the first openly gay soldier killed in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. His parents, Lori and Jeff Wilfahrt, have become active in promoting marriage equality for all since Andrew's death. Jeff Wilfahrt's words from a previous interview with *Lavender Magazine* ring true:

"As the Minnesota legislature moved on the marriage amendment, I challenged the House and Senate on the basic premise that, if his [Andrew's] taxes were good enough, and his blood was good enough, why weren't his rights good enough?"

According to Lori Wilfahrt, "Andrew will be remembered as a thinker who loved anything ridiculous and absurd...but his passion was classical music...Andrew began to compose music and play the piano as a boy, and his love of music continued into adulthood." Though Andrew joined the Army when Don't Ask Don't Tell was still enforced, he found his friends in the army to be very accepting of who he was. Lori continues, "His fellow soldiers admired and respected him because he worked hard, made them laugh, and had their backs."

The artist behind the portrait, Anthony



(L-R): Monica Meyer of OutFront Minnesota, Jeff and Lori Wilfahrt, Anthony Whelihan, Ann Ruff of CommonBond Communities, and Andy Lien. Photo by Kathleen Watson

Whelihan, has been commissioned by many celebrities and organizations including the NFL, The Nobel Conference, and Disney. His most visible piece covers the east wall of the Minneapolis Convention Center and is the world's largest mural on canvas. Whelihan states in his artist's statement, "I believe an artist should depict the time in which he lives, and part of that is to become involved with organizations and people that can make a difference; using my work to make a difference by raising awareness and funds for these organizations is my small way of participation."

Lori Wilfahrt says Andrew "encouraged everyone he knew to take time to be creative, to write, paint, build, or just dream." Through this portrait, and through his parents' support for marriage equality, Corporal Wilfahrt's spirit lives on. ▣

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The Best Breakups

SOME FRIENDS and I were reminiscing about our favorite breakups. The most spectacular ones in terms of raw drama took place in our 20s, and the saddest, most soul crushing ones happened in our mid 40s. When you're in your 20s, breakups are kind of fun. They typically happen in public places with tons of interested spectators. Everyone takes sides, and someone usually gets a beer tossed on them. The older you get, the less fun it is. You are now an adult and realize that feelings aren't recyclable plastic bottles to be tossed away in the hopes that they will be transformed into something really cool at a later date.

I was chatting with a friend who just turned 50 and is recovering from the end of a 12-year-relationship. This friend, who we'll call Twinkie, was a breakup legend in her 20s and 30s. We would encourage her to date the most wildly inappropriate girls simply to have the joy and drama of experiencing the inevitable bust up.

When not in love, Twinkie is reasonable and quite sane. But when crushed out, she's quite the kook. She loves the big first date. No movie and dinner for the Twink! Bring on the private jet that whisks her and her beloved to an exclusive concert or an over-the-top dinner at her palatial home served by her butler. Yes, she has a butler. She always referred to him as her handyman until I suggested she start calling him her butler, because he is always lurking around the house, eavesdropping on our conversations and serving us snacks. Plus, I'm fairly certain he's capable of murder, and I've always longed to say "the butler did it."

Her full-on press tends to frighten new prey, and they have a tendency to stop answering her calls after the first blizzard of roses from the florist. The cold shoulder is catnip to the Twink! Unrequited love tips her into full obsession, and she'd embark on madcapped missions to stalk, charm, cajole, threaten, and entrap her love object.

And, weirdly, her method nearly always worked. The girl would be so exhausted trying to avoid the Twink that she'd finally acquiesce for no other reason than to get some sleep.

All would be swell until the breakup. At the first hint of instability in the relationship, Twink's focus would intensify to the type of single-minded fixation that she shares with certain third-world despots. My favorite Twink breakup story involves her buying out the world's supply of the type of vibrator her ex favored and piling them in her garage, just like Saddam Hussein did with the weapons of mass destruction. She then commanded her butler to break into her ex's house and steal the last remaining vibrator from the ex's bed stand. It all ended up in court, where the Twink's lawyer merrily waved the vibrator in front of the jury. I never understood that move, since the vibrator evidence was clearly not in the Twink's favor. But it made the jury laugh, and the case was tossed on the grounds that it was completely ludicrous.

When I heard that the Twink's latest relationship had ended, I called her to commiserate. She spoke halfheartedly of the revenge she was seeking—most of which had to do with raiding retirement funds and deliberately torpedoing real estate investments. I was horrified by her anemic efforts.

"Twink, what's become of you? No police? No restraining order? No bloodshed?" I asked.

"Eh, I'm old now, and I've got high cholesterol," she explained with a shrug. "I'll let the lawyers fight it out." But then, as I mourned for our lost youth and misguided passion, I heard a shrill yip from the closet.

"Twink! You stole her dog!" I exclaimed.

"I might have high cholesterol, but I'm not dead yet," she said with a cackle. ■

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The Last Acceptable Prejudice

WE STAND now at a pivotal moment in history, on the eve of ending the last acceptable, widely institutionalized prejudice in the Western World: prejudice against members of the GLBT community.

We are indeed in the twilight of this baseless and terrifically erroneous era in American history. We are undoubtedly on the precipice of finally realizing the third of the most important tenants of our inalienable rights: that of our pursuit of happiness. We WILL soon have in our hands the hands of our loved ones, professing to one another our love at the altar of hope in legally recognized ceremonies. And with our subsequent tax benefits, property rights, and visitation rights finally granted, we will also welcome their drawbacks: we'll have even further incentive to take out the trash when our spouses ask us; we'll have to pay more attention to just how much money they're spending at Macy's with our shared credit; and, if my grandparents were any indicator, we'll probably get grumpier with one another a little more easily.

And while, in relation to the age of our nation, we are on the verge of this pivotal moment, we still have many battles to fight, many debates to win, and many minds to change. For Minnesota, our battle hits a milestone on November 6, when voters across the state will voice on which side of

history they stand: those who vote "yes" to ingraining prohibition of same-sex marriage in the state constitution will find themselves in the shadows cast by the latest era of the Civil Rights Movement. Those who vote "no" will find themselves in its sunlight, moving toward a more perfect union in which our sexuality does not undermine our status as creatures born with human rights.

Election Day this year will not mean we are reshaping marriage. The truth of the matter is, our spousal love for one another still will be legally unrecognized. But this Election Day grants us the opportunity to show America and the rest of the world that Minnesotans are ready to progress rather than regress. We will become the first state in the union to reject electorally an amendment that paints a narrow-minded vision of America as a democracy in which the God-given right of happiness is a discriminatory one on the basis of sexuality.

Forget the campaign fodder and the overwhelming statistics for a moment, and think of our values. We are a nation of immigrants, a nation that finds invaluable the diversity we have in thought, religious tradition, and cultural influence. We are a nation that values not what we are or where we are, but who we are. It's "We the People," not "We the Few." We are not a nation founded on

"We the Rich," "We the Whites," "We the Christians," or "We the Muslims." We the People, a nation of immigrants who founded a country on a belief in shared citizenship: a brotherhood, a sisterhood, a family of diversity that shan't be ignored or undermined, but celebrated and admired.

And if still this does not resonate, consider our solidarity. Despite our differences and our sometimes hate-filled vitriol spewed in anger and protest for however trivial or paramount a disagreement, we are a people who, when times get tough, will unite when we are in peril. The neighbors you so despise for their political signs and their rants you will help at a moment's notice were they faced with a life-threatening event. We hold these values because it is innate within us to protect when we can our brothers and sisters in times of peril. Shouldn't it, then, come to life that we are also a people who find solidarity in love? For those of you reading this who oppose same-sex marriage but who are married yourselves, you need look no further than your own spouse to understand exactly what I'm talking about.

I implore you: vote "No" on November 6 and proudly stand with us at the dawn of a new and long-awaited American morning, and watch with us the sun set on the last acceptable prejudice. ■



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